# The danger of *Taqlīd*

# [uncritical adherence without proof]

Imām ʿAbd al-ʿAzīz b. ʿAbdillāh b. Bāz

**Question 2643:**

What is your view regarding what most people do by blindly following others, so that when one of them is advised, he says: "*People do it*"?

**Answer:**

As for blindly following the people, this is an error. Allāh condemned *al-Mushrikūn* [the polytheists] and rebuked them, as they would say to the *Anbiyāʾ* [Prophets]:

إِنَّا وَجَدْنَا آبَاءَنَا عَلَىٰ أُمَّةٍ وَإِنَّا عَلَىٰ آثَارِهِم مُّقْتَدُونَ

"*Indeed, we found our forefathers upon an Ummah [religious way, inherited path], and indeed we are following in their Āthār [footsteps, traces].*"
[***Sūrah az-Zukhruf***, 43:23]

Allāh condemned them for this. This is from the practice of *al-Mushrikūn*

[the polytheists] and *al-Juhhāl* [the ignorant]. So what is obligatory upon the Muslim is that he ask *Ahl adh-Dhikr* [the people of knowledge], as Allāh says:

فَاسْأَلُوا أَهْلَ الذِّكْرِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ

"*So, ask Ahl adh-Dhikr [the people of knowledge] if you do not know.*" [***Sūrah an-Naḥl***, 16:43]

He does not blindly follow *ad-Dahmāʾ* [the rabble] and *al-ʿĀmmah* [the common masses]. Rather, he asks the people of knowledge if he himself has no knowledge.

If he is able to acquire knowledge, then he should read the *Qurʾān*, reflect upon the speech of his Lord, read the *Sunnah*, and memorize whatever is easy from it, until he comes to know *al-Ḥaqq* [the truth]. But if he is not able, then he should consult the people of knowledge, ask about the people of knowledge in whatever land he may be, and seek their *Fatwá* [legal verdict] concerning what Allāh and His Messenger ﷺ have said. He should say: "Direct me to the *Sharʿ* [revealed law] of Allāh. Direct me to what Allāh and His Messenger have said regarding this matter, so that I may act according to the *Sharʿ* [revealed law] of Allāh and the *Dīn* [religion] of Allāh."

He must not blindly follow the people and move along with them in *al-Ḥaqq* [the truth] and *al-Bāṭil* [falsehood] alike. No. Rather, he is not to go along with the people except upon *al-Ḥaqq* [the truth] alone, never upon *al-Bāṭil* [falsehood].